

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the phone call on September 13, 2006 and for the assistance in understanding that the withdrawn claims need be cancelled for the application to issue and that payment of the fee for a one month extension was required for the Examiner to consider this Reply.

Applicants reply to the Final Office Action dated May 22, 2006 within four months of the date of the Office Action and include payment for a one month extension.

The Office Action rejects claims 11, 29, 34, 46, and 47, objects to claims 30 – 33, 45, 48, and 49, and allows claims 40 – 43. In response, Applicants cancel claims 11, 29, 34, 46, and 47 without prejudice to filing one or more applications having claims with similar subject matter and rewrite claims 30 – 33, 45, 48, and 49 in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims. Claims 1 – 10, 12 – 28 and 35 – 39 were withdrawn in response to an earlier restriction requirement. In this Reply, claims 1 – 10, 12 – 28 and 35 – 39 are cancelled without prejudice to filing one or more applications having claims with similar subject matter. After entry of this amendment, claims 30 – 33, 40 – 43, 45, and 48 – 49 (5 independent claims, 11 claims total) remain pending in the application. Applicants request that the Examiner permit the remaining claims to issue.

Regarding Claims 1 – 10, 12 – 28 and 35 – 39

Claims 1 – 10, 12 – 28 and 35 – 39 were withdrawn in response to an earlier restriction requirement. In this Reply, claims 1 – 10, 12 – 28 and 35 – 39 are cancelled without prejudice to filing one or more applications having claims with similar subject matter.

Regarding Claims 11, 29, 34, 46, and 47

The Office Action rejects claims 11, 29, 34, 46, and 47 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ferrara et al. ("Ferrara") U.S. Patent No. 6,588,412.

Applicants cancel claims 11, 29, 34, 46, and 47 without prejudice to filing one or more applications having claims with similar subject matter.

Regarding Claims 30 – 33, 45, 48, and 49

The Office Action objects to claims 30 – 33, 45, 48, and 49 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants rewrite claims 30, 45, 48, and 49 as independent claims that included all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants additionally amend claims 30, 45, and 49 to improve clarity and readability. Claims 31 – 33 depended from rewritten independent claim 30 and contain all of the elements thereof. Applicants request that the Examiner permit claims 30 – 33, 45, 48, and 49 to issue.

Regarding Claims 40 – 43

The Examiner allows claims 40 – 43. Applicants request that the Examiner permit claims 40 – 43 to issue.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for issue. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims is earnestly requested. Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the above in greater detail or deem that amendments should be made to improve the form of the claims, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

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Respectfully submitted,



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